21. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said tumor is follicular lymphoma.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of a soluble LT- β receptor, anti-LT -α antibodies, anti -LT- β -antibodies, and anti-LT- β -R antibodies.

23. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the composition is a soluble LT-β receptor.

24. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the subject is a mammal.

25. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the subject is a human.

26. (New) The method according to claim 23 wherein the soluble lymphotoxin- β receptor comprises a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand.

27. (New) The method according to claim 26 wherein the LT- β -receptor comprises a human immunoglobulin FC domain.

28. (New) The method according to claim 22 wherein the composition comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against an LT- β receptor. Not species elected.

29. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the monoclonal antibody is humanized or chimeric.

30. (New) A composition for the treatment of a subject having follicular lymphoma which blocks the interaction of LT- β with its receptor.

31. (New) The method of claim 20 comprising the administration to said subject of at least one chemotherapeutic agent.

32. (New) The method of claim 20 comprising the administration to said subject of radiation treatments.

33. (New) The method of claim 20 further comprising the administration to said subject of radiation treatments or bone marrow transplantation.

34. (New) A method for altering the survival or maintenance of follicular dendritic cells in a subject comprising administering an inhibitor of the interaction between LT- β and its receptor.

35. (New) A method for altering the architecture of the organs of the immune system by administering (a) an inhibitor of the interaction between LT- β and its receptor; and (b) an inhibitor of the signaling pathway of an additional member of the TNF family of ligands and receptors.

Remarks

In a telephone conference call with Examiner Yu and Primary Examiner Mosher, Applicants discussed an error made in the preliminary amendment documents mailed on October 31, 2001. In the preliminary amendment, Applicants were attempting to amend the claims to correct typographical errors related to the symbols alpha (α) and beta (β). While doing so, original claim 1 directed at "arresting or reducing the advancement, severity or effects of a tumor" was mistakenly replaced with an unrelated claim directed at "altering a humoral immune response".

As discussed with Examiner Yu and Primary Examiner Mosher, Applicants are canceling the "amended" claims 1-19 and adding new claims 20-35 (please note that original claims 13 and 14 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice as discussed below). New claims 20-35 are identical to the "original" claims 1-12 and 16-19 but have been amended to correct typographical errors related to the symbols alpha (α) and beta (β) and to change the numbering of the dependent claims. As such no new matter has been introduced.

After entry of the new claims and election of Group I, claims 20-29 (corresponds to original claims 1-10) and claims 31-33 (corresponds to original claims 12, 16-17) will be pending.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112 Second Paragraph

Claims 1-4, 7-10, 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.§ 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Applicants submit that many of the objections to claims 1-4 and 7-10 and 12-17 are moot in view of the reinstatement of the subject matter of original claim 1 which does not include the language objected to by the Examiner (i.e. "altering the humoral immune response", "a)"). In addition, with the reinstatement of the subject matter of original claim 1 there is antecedent basis for "said tumor" found in claims 2-4 and 7-10 and for "said subject" found in claims 12-17.

With regard to the Examiner's objection to claims 13 and 14 Applicants submit that inhibitors of TNF pathways and more specifically compositions which inhibit the CD40/CD40 ligand pathway (including, for example, the anti-CD40 ligand antibody described in dependent claim 15) are known to those skilled in the art. Solely, however, for the purpose of expediting prosecution and not for reasons of patentability Applicants have canceled claims 13 and 14 (as

well as claim 15 which depends from claim 14) but expressly reserve the right to refile the canceled subject matter in a continuation case at a later date.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C.§ 112, second paragraph rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112 First Paragraph

Claims 1-10 and 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Applicants submit that the objections to claims 1-10 and 12-17 are moot in view of the reinstatement of the subject matter of original claim 1 which does not include the language objected to by the Examiner (i.e. "altering the humoral immune response" or "therapeutically"). As such Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

In light of the species election required in the Office Action mailed October 2, 2001 by the Examiner to a soluble LT beta receptor Applicants request that the objection raised by the Examiner to the use of "blocking agents" be withdrawn.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned at (617)-679-2079.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 02-2327**. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 28, 2002

Niki D. Cox
Reg. No. 42,446
BIOGEN, INC.
14 Cambridge Center
Cambridge, MA 02142
(617) 679-2079 (Direct)
(617) 679-2838 (Facsimile)